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**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A system for programming a programmable device having an interface for a portable memory medium, comprising:
  - an interactive interface ~~executable on~~ presented on a display of a stand-alone computer appliance, ~~for creating~~ comprising selectable mechanisms enabling a user to create and save a program for operating the programmable device;
  - a portable memory medium; and
  - a downloading mechanism ~~[[for]]~~ transferring the created program to the portable memory medium.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card, and the downloading mechanism is a magnetic strip writer connected to the computer appliance.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the memory medium is a thumb drive having a USB male connector.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the computer appliance is a personal computer (PC).
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the PC is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ an Internet network, and the interactive interface is provided by a Web site in the Internet network.
6. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the interactive interface is read by the PC from a portable memory medium provided with the programmable device.

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7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the portable memory medium is a compact disk read-only medium (CD-ROM).
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a programmable device having an interface for the portable memory medium.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card, and the interface is a magnetic strip card writer.
10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the portable memory medium is a thumb drive and the interface is a female USB port for receiving ~~[[the]]~~ a male USB connector of the thumb drive.
11. (Original) A programmable device wherein the entire programming interface comprises:
  - a port for receiving a portable memory device; and
  - logic for reading a program from a portable memory device engaged at the port and for transferring that program to an internal memory for execution.
12. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 11 wherein the device is one of a lawn sprinkler controller, a VCR, a thermostat, or a cellular telephone.
13. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 11 wherein the port for receiving is a female USB port for receiving a male USB connector of a thumb drive.
14. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 11 wherein the port for receiving is a magnetic strip reader for reading a program from a magnetic strip card.
15. (Original) A method for programming a programmable device, comprising acts of:

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(a) providing a sole programming interface for the device as a port for reading a portable memory medium and logic for transferring a program from the medium to an internal memory of the device;

(b) providing an interactive interface for creating a program for the programmable device, the interactive interface executable on a display of a computer appliance having a downloading mechanism for recording a program created on the portable memory medium; and

(c) using the portable medium for transferring the program created to the programmable device.

16. (Original) A system for programming a programmable device having an interface for receiving a program, comprising:

an interactive interface executable on a stand-alone computer appliance for creating a program for the programmable device; and

a transmitter for transmitting the program to the programmable device.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the transmitter is an infra-red transmitter and the interface at the programmable device is an infra-red reader.

18 (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the transmitter is a magnetic loop transmitter and the interface at the programmable device is a magnetic loop receiver.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the transmitter is a radio frequency (RF) transmitter and the interface at the programmable device is an RF receiver.